

November 2018 midterms.” Topping the list is the seat of Sen. Dean Heller (R-NV), followed by those of Sens. Claire McCaskill (D-MO); Jeff Flake (R-AZ); Joe Donnelly (D-IN); Joe Manchin (D-WV); Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND); Sherrod Brown (D-OH); Jon Tester (D-MT); Tammy Baldwin (D-WI); and Bill Nelson (D-FL).

Hawley Spokesman Sidesteps Question On Whether Candidate Would Back McConnell. McClatchy

(10/17, Wise, 67K) reports that state Attorney Gen. Josh Hawley (R-MO), “Republicans’ top recruit to” take on Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO) in next year’s election, “won’t commit to voting for Mitch McConnell as Senate Republican leader if elected in 2018.” Asked if the GOP hopeful would back McConnell, Hawley campaign spokesman Scott Paradise “deflected the question,” saying in an email, “The Senate is broken and failing the people of Missouri. Josh is running because he is not willing to tolerate the failure of the D.C. establishment any longer. He won’t tolerate Claire McCaskill’s failure. And he won’t tolerate Republican failure, either.”

McCaskill Acknowledges “Sloppy” Mistake In Claiming She Was Out When Controversial Bill Passed. The Springfield (MO) News-Leader (10/17, Shesgreen, 61K) reports that McCaskill on Tuesday “said she was wrong when she asserted she’d been undergoing breast cancer treatment on March 17, 2016 – the day the Senate passed legislation undermining the Drug Enforcement Agency’s ability to stop suspicious shipments of opioids to what they feared were pill-mills and illicit pharmacies.” The bill “dramatically undercut the DEA’s efforts to staunch the flow of millions of opioid pills into communities across the country, according to an investigation by the Washington Post and ‘60 Minutes,’ published on Sunday.” Speaking on “Monday with CNN, McCaskill said she didn’t go along with the bill and was out for breast cancer treatment when it passed.” On Tuesday, however, McCaskill “said her statements on Monday were a ‘sloppy embarrassing mistake.’”

SLF Unveils Microsite Targeting Democrat Donnelly On Outsourcing.

The Hill (10/17, Kamisar, 1.68M) reported that the Senate Leadership Fund (SLF), a super PAC aligned with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, on Tuesday was to unveil “a new

microsite” hitting Sen. Joe Donnelly (D-IN) “over revelations from this summer that he earned profit from a family company that outsourced jobs to Mexico. The new website is called ‘MexicoJoe.com,’ a nod to the pejorative nickname that Republicans have bestowed upon Donnelly since the news broke over the summer. It will be a central hub for the SLF’s attacks on Donnelly, hosting content including video and news clippings.” Donnelly faces reelection next year.

Nelson Raises Nearly \$1.8M In Q3, Has \$6.3M Banked For Reelection Race.

The Tampa Bay (FL) Times (10/17, Leary, 877K) reports that Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL), who faces reelection next year, “raised \$1.75 million in the third quarter of 2017 and now has \$6.3 million cash-on-hand. The haul comes as Nelson suspended his campaign for several weeks due to the hurricanes, an aide said.” Florida Gov. Rick Scott (R), who is term-limited in 2018, is expected to challenge Nelson in next year’s election.

Testimony Continues In Menendez’s Federal Corruption Trial.

In continuing coverage of the federal corruption trial of Sen. Bob Menendez (D) and his longtime friend and donor, eye doctor Salomon Melgen, Bloomberg News (10/17, Weinberg, Voreacos, 4.52M) reports that Menendez’s attorneys on Tuesday “sought to show jurors that the New Jersey Democrat was motivated by a desire to improve public policy and not by corrupt intent when he intervened in a Medicare billing dispute at the heart of” the prosecution’s case. Testifying for the defense, “Washington lobbyist Alan Reider” discussed “how he helped Melgen contest accusations that he overbilled for Lucentis, a macular degeneration drug that costs doctors \$2,000. Reider, a health care lawyer, said he argued to Menendez that Medicare policy that prevented multiple doses of Lucentis from a single bottle was confusing and contradictory.” Reider “said his briefing with Menendez in 2012 focused on the multidosing policy rather than Melgen’s dispute with the government.”

Politico (10/17, Friedman, 3.6M) reported that Reider “said he learned of at least six other doctors who were concerned about ‘multi-dosing,’ even though prosecutors have argued only Melgen had an interest in changing the

government's policy on the issue." Reider, "who testified that he had briefly registered as a lobbyist when representing Melgen" as an attorney, "met with Menendez, who later raised the multi-dosing issue with everyone from bureaucrats at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to then-Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. Prosecutors say those meetings were favors Menendez did for Melgen...in exchange for private jet flights, vacations and hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions."

The New York Times (10/17, Wang, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that testifying on Tuesday, "Melgen's wife, Flor Melgen, was alternately subdued and defiant in answering questions about the relationship between her husband and Mr. Menendez." The Times adds that at one point, "after Kirk Ogrosky, a lawyer for Dr. Melgen, asked whether Ms. Melgen had expected to receive anything in return for her donations to Mr. Menendez's campaigns, she replied no. But she then began to explain in Spanish, through an interpreter, that 'every citizen who lives in this country' might expect a return from a candidate who could 'do good for the community.'"

The AP (10/17, Porter) reports that Ms. Melgen "recalled how then-Republican Florida Gov. Charlie Crist showed up at her Palm Beach County home unannounced in October 2010, when he was running for Senate as an independent. Crist apparently was hoping Menendez, at the time the chair of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, was there that night, she testified. He wasn't, but Crist wound up dining and staying overnight. He reimbursed the Melgens \$100 for the dinner. 'So at least one politician knows how to pay your husband back,' Justice Department attorney Monique Abrishami said. Defense attorneys immediately objected, and US District Judge William Walls cautioned jurors to disregard attorneys' 'throwaway questions.'"

NJ News (10/17, Moriarty, Spoto, 1.21M) reports, "Defense attorneys raised the subject of [Crist's reimbursement] to try to address the issue of one of the flights prosecutors allege Menendez took on Melgen's dime as part of a bribe. The defense has argued Menendez should not have been charged in that instance because, they say, that Oct. 9 to 11, 2010, trip to Florida was

campaign-related and should have been reimbursed by the DSCC."

Poll: 73% Of New Jersey Voters Say Menendez Should Resign Immediately, If Convicted. Meanwhile, Fox News (10/17, Balara, 12.87M) reported on its website that in a Fox News poll of 679 New Jersey likely voters, taken Oct. 14-16, 63% of those surveyed said that Menendez "should resign immediately," if convicted of the corruption charges, while 19% said "he should wait until the next governor is in office."

Pence: If Convicted, It Would Be "Inappropriate And Wrong" For Menendez To Remain In Senate. The Washington Times (10/17, Persons, 541K) reports that during a Tuesday interview with conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt, Vice President Pence said that having Menendez continue to serve in the Senate "would be 'inappropriate' if he's convicted in his federal corruption case." Said Pence, "I think that'll be a decision for members of the Senate. But having a convicted felon in the United States Senate, I think, would be altogether inappropriate and wrong."

New Wildfires Emerge In Santa Cruz Mountains. ABC World News Tonight (10/17, story 5, 1:55, Muir, 14.63M) reported that "as firefighters make progress on the devastating wildfires" in California, new fires emerged in the Santa Cruz Mountains on Tuesday night, leaving five firefighters injured. Sutter Santa Rosa Regional Hospital (SSRRH) evacuated all 77 patients. SSRRH Chief Nursing Executive Robin Allen said, "We believe over 30 physicians at this facility lost their homes, as well as over 40 staff members."

Sonoma Sheriff Denies Reports Linking Wildfires To Arson-Related Arrest. The Redding (CA) Record-Searchlight (10/17, Sandhu, Longoria, 59K) reports that on Tuesday, Breitbart News and InfoWars "attempted to link the Sunday arrest of" Latino man Jesus Fabian Gonzalez "on suspicion of arson in Sonoma to the massive, deadly cluster of wildfires burning in California's wine country," but the outlets "offered no evidence to link the man's arrest to the fires and their accounts of the man's arrest were disputed the same day by Sonoma County Sheriff Rob Giordano." Giordano said in a news conference, "There's a story out there he's the arsonist for

these fires. That is not the case. There is no indication he is related to these fires at all."

Weinstein Resigns From His Company; Amazon Exec Steps Down.

NBC Nightly News (10/17, story 7, 2:10, Holt, 16.61M) reported Harvey Weinstein on Tuesday officially resigned from the board of his company as more than 50 women accuse him of sexual harassment or assault. The head of Amazon Studios also resigned Tuesday amid sexual harassment allegations, and executive producer Amanda Segel now is accusing Weinstein's brother, Bob Weinstein, of harassing her. The CBS Evening News (10/17, story 9, 0:25, Mason, 11.17M) reported that Spike TV has said it is investigating Segel's claims. A spokesman for Bob Weinstein has "denied the charges."

ABC World News Tonight (10/17, story 4, 2:15, Muir, 14.63M) reported that "other Hollywood A-listers are coming forward with their own experiences" of harassment and assault, with actress Reese Witherspoon claiming she was abused by a "Hollywood director" and Jennifer Lawrence making her own claims.

Women Denounce Harassment In California's State Legislature.

The New York Times (10/17, Nagourney, Medina, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that more than 140 women – "including legislators, senior legislative aides and lobbyists" – have drafted a letter denouncing "what they describe as pervasive sexual misconduct by powerful men" in California's state legislature. Women "complained of groping, lewd comments and suggestions of trading sexual favors for legislation while doing business in Sacramento." The letter "comes as the scandal involving Mr. Weinstein had set off a wave of investigations, recriminations and accusations across the nation, including in state capitals in Rhode Island and South Dakota."

NYTimes A1: Secretive "Self-Help" Group For Women Requires Members To Be Branded.

In a front-page story, the New York Times (10/17, A1, Meier, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports on the inner workings of a secretive "self-help" organization, called Nxivm, where women, in order to gain admission, "were required to give their recruiter...naked photographs or other compromising material" to ensure their silence about the group and then

were "branded" with a cauterizing device. Since the late 1990s, "an estimated 16,000 people have enrolled in courses offered by Nxivm (pronounced Nex-e-um), which it says are designed to bring about greater self-fulfillment by eliminating psychological and emotional barriers." With recent revelations of the "secret sisterhood and branding," scores of members are leaving the organization, and interviews with a dozen of them "portray a group spinning more deeply into disturbing practices."

Trump Accuser Describes Earlier Harassment Experience.

In a USA Today (10/17, 8.62M) op-ed, journalist Natasha Stoenoff – who wrote last year in People about being harassed by Donald Trump during a 2005 interview – describes her experience being sexually harassed by an unnamed actor 30 years ago. Stoenoff writes that women are beginning to open up about their experiences of harassment and assault. Women "are not afraid anymore, and there is no room in this world for men of this ilk."

Pence Says Walking Out Of Colts Game Was "Right Thing To Do."

WXIN-TV Indianapolis (10/17, 178K) reports online that Vice President Pence said Tuesday that his decision to walk out from an Indianapolis Colts game after players knelt during the national anthem was the right choice. In a radio interview with WIBC-FM's Tony Katz, Pence said, "You know we had had plans for a long time to attend that game. Karen and I were looking very much forward to it, but frankly when we saw that so many players took a knee on the sideline we thought it was the right thing to do to leave." Pence did say he and President Trump had discussed the situation before he came to Indianapolis, and he added that while "everybody is entitled to their opinion...the president and I believe it's not too much to ask for all players to respect our soldiers, respect our flag, respect our national anthem, and that's why we left."

In addition to providing video of Pence's interview with Tony Katz, WIBC-FM Indianapolis (10/17, 7K) reports online that Pence also discussed the Administration's domestic and foreign policy accomplishments and the importance of tax reform. Pence said, "And before the end of this year we're going to cut taxes for working-class families and small businesses all across America."

NFL Owners, Players Meet To Discuss Anthem Protests. NBC Nightly News (10/17, story 13, 0:20, Holt, 16.61M) reported that NFL team owners and players met on Tuesday in New York to discuss league protocol on kneeling during the national anthem. While the two sides “called the meeting productive,” there was no agreement reached on the anthem protests. During the meeting, protests “erupted” outside.

ABC World News Tonight (10/17, lead story, 2:25, Muir, 14.63M) reported NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell announced Tuesday evening that owners did not ask the players to stand for the national anthem. Players at the meeting said progress was made on bringing attention to the reasons that some were kneeling. Players and owners “are expected to get together to discuss” the kneeling issue again “within the next couple of weeks.”

Google Serves “Fake News” Ads On Fact-Checking Sites, NYTimes Finds.

A New York Times (10/17, Wakabayashi, Qiu, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) investigation found that enticing fake “headlines served as bait to draw readers to fraudulent sites that masqueraded as mainstream news sites, such as People and Vogue.” The Times found that “fake publishers used Google’s AdWords system to place the advertisements on websites that fit their broad parameters,” including, ironically, “PolitiFact and Snopes, fact-checking sites created precisely to dispel such falsehoods.” The article highlights opinion that this investigation’s finding underscores the challenges of avoiding so-called “fake news.”

National Archives Warned Administration To Preserve Documents. Politico (10/17, Dawsey, Bender, 3.6M) cites sources and documents as indicating “National Archives officials have periodically warned White House lawyers that the Trump administration needs to follow document preservation laws.” National Archives officials reportedly “told the White House counsel’s office they were concerned that wasn’t happening, particularly early in the administration.” In addition, the nonpartisan watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics “is suing the Trump administration over its adherence to the record law, citing the use by White House officials of encrypted smartphone apps to communicate,

such as Confide and Signal, which are designed to delete data.”

Bipartisan Group To Urge Trump To Alter Policing Policies. The New York Times (10/17, Haberman, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that a “broad coalition” of law enforcement officials and activists “is expected to urge President Trump on Wednesday to adjust policies on policing and criminality, the first time such a group has spoken out against the Trump administration.” According to the Times, “some of the nation’s most prominent prosecutors, police chiefs and criminal justice overhaul advocates,” including Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC) and “representatives from the conservative Koch brothers network,” will meet in Washington, DC for the National Law Enforcement Summit. Former Attorney General Eric Holder and Sally Q. Yates, “the acting attorney general whom Mr. Trump abruptly fired in the first few days of his presidency, will speak.” The presenters “are expected to pose the challenge to Mr. Trump, who ran in 2016 as a ‘law and order’ candidate but whose attorney general’s policies – as well as Mr. Trump’s own messaging – have come under increasing criticism from local law enforcement officials.”

Open Society Discloses \$18 Billion In Donations From Georges Soros. On its front page, the Wall Street Journal (10/17, A1, Chung, Das, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that Open Society Foundations said Tuesday that in recent years, George Soros has moved about \$18 billion of his money into Open Society. Soros reportedly has no plans to trade the billions now belonging to Open Society, as his family office manages the endowment. The article outlines causes supported by Open Society, including immigration reform, US criminal justice reform, mentoring programs for black and Latino young men, and indirectly, the Black Lives Matter movement.

The New York Times (10/17, Gelles, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that this makes Open Society “the second largest foundation in the United States by assets, according to the National Philanthropic Trust.” The Times mentions that Soros had wrongly bet against the stock market after Trump was elected.

Duckworth: Congress Seeking To Remove Protections For Disabled.

In a Washington Post (10/17, 10.38M) op-ed, Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) writes that Congress – led by “special interests” in the hospitality and retail industries – are working to undermine the Americans with Disabilities Act by offering legislation that seeks “to shift the burden of ADA compliance away from business owners and onto individuals with disabilities.” She argues that if Congress passes the “misguided” ADA Education and Reform Act, “it would send a disgraceful message to Americans with disabilities that their civil rights are not worthy of strong enforcement.”

WSJournal Decries Court Ruling Absolving Prosecutors For Using False Information.

The Wall Street Journal (10/17, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) editorializes about Tuesday’s ruling by the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals that absolved prosecutors for the use of false information in the prosecution of hedge fund founder David Ganek. Ganek had sued the prosecutors, seeking damages after the prosecution had put his hedge fund out of business. The appeals court ruled that the prosecutors were immune from liability. The Journal calls this another example of abusive behavior by prosecutors, and it urges the Justice Department to investigate the incident and to discipline the prosecutors.

WSJournal Applauds Gov. Brown’s Veto Of Campus Sexual Assault Bill.

The Wall Street Journal (10/17, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) editorial board praises California Governor Jerry Brown’s (D) Sunday veto of a bill that would have codified the Obama Administration’s “Dear Colleague” guidance, which said universities would lose federal funds if they did not create courts to litigate Title IX campus sexual assault claims. The Journal urges politicians to stay focused on their principles in spite of desire to buck the Trump Administration.

WPost Offers Farewell To Former Communications Vice President.

In an editorial, the Washington Post (10/17, 10.38M) writes offers a farewell message for The Post’s former vice president of communications, Vincent E. Reed, who died Tuesday at the age of 89. The Post says Reed “leaves a rich legacy” in the lives of the students who benefited from the school he

created – Benjamin Banneker Academic High School – and the educators “helped by the support and guidance he provided from his position at The Post.”

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP

New York Times. *“Mr Trump Outdoes Himself In Picking A Conflicted Regulator.”* A New York Times (10/17, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) editorial says President Trump has “made a habit of filling important jobs with people dedicated to undermining the laws they’re supposed to administer while pampering the industries they’re supposed to regulate,” and “yet no nomination has been as brazen, as dangerous to public health and as deserving of Senate rejection as that of Michael Dourson to run the EPA office in charge of reviewing chemicals used in agriculture, industry and household products.” Dourson’s nomination is “enthusiastically endorsed by the chemical industry,” but “horridifies environmental groups, public health advocates, firefighters and scientists.” The Times says it “would take just a few Republicans to block the nomination,” and urges senators to “think hard about the impact their votes could have on the health of Americans for years to come.”

Washington Post. *“Janet Yellen Deserves A Second Term As Fed Chair.”* In an editorial, the Washington Post (10/17, 10.38M) writes that President Trump should select Janet Yellen for a second term as Federal Reserve Chairman because of her experience with steadily raising interest rates and with the unwinding of the Fed’s asset purchasing program, her encouragement and defense of safeguards on financial institutions, and her relative flexibility compared with the other candidates. The Post concludes that her selection would signal the preservation of the Federal Reserve’s independence from politicization and “would send a reassuring message of continuity.”

“The Hope For Change In Venezuela Suffers A Crushing Blow.” A Washington Post (10/17, 10.38M) editorial says “hopes that Venezuela could emerge from its catastrophic political and economic collapse by democratic means suffered a crushing and perhaps terminal blow on Sunday” when the government of Nicolás Maduro staged elections for provincial governors. Polls showed the opposition, “which reluctantly

agreed to participate, would win up to two-thirds of the races,” and yet the results “announced by pro-regime election authorities were nearly the opposite.” The Post argues that Sunday’s result suggests that a free and fair democratic election in Venezuela “is no longer possible.”

“Saying Farewell To A Local Icon Of National Renown.” In an editorial, the Washington Post (10/17, 10.38M) writes offers a farewell message for The Post’s former vice president of communications, Vincent E. Reed, who died Tuesday at the age of 89. The Post says Reed “leaves a rich legacy” in the lives of the students who benefited from the school he created – Benjamin Banneker Academic High School – and the educators “helped by the support and guidance he provided from his position at The Post.”

Wall Street Journal. *“The Realtors Take A Tax Hostage.”* In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (10/17, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) writes that The National Association of Realtors’ attack on GOP tax legislation is based upon their desire to keep middle-class tax rates high to preserve their mortgage interest deduction subsidy. The Journal concludes that Republicans should stand firm against the housing lobby’s efforts against the GOP plan.

“Jerry Brown’s Title IX Veto.” The Wall Street Journal (10/17, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) editorial board praises California Governor Jerry Brown’s (D) Sunday veto of a bill that would have codified the Obama Administration’s “Dear Colleague” guidance, which said universities would lose federal funds if they did not create courts to litigate Title IX campus sexual assault claims. The Journal urges politicians to stay focused on their principles in spite of desire to buck the Trump Administration.

“Prosecutorial Impunity.” The Wall Street Journal (10/17, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) editorializes about Tuesday’s ruling by the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals that absolved prosecutors for the use of false information in the prosecution of hedge fund founder David Ganek. Ganek had sued the prosecutors, seeking damages after the prosecution had put his hedge fund out of business. The appeals court ruled that the prosecutors were immune from liability. The Journal calls this another example of abusive behavior by prosecutors, and it urges the Justice Department to investigate the incident and to discipline the prosecutors.

THE BIG PICTURE

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

WALL STREET JOURNAL:

Senators Reach Deal To Shore Up Health Markets
Soros Transfers \$18 Billion To Foundation, Creating Instant Giant
US-Backed Forces Say They Have Taken Last Islamic State Urban Stronghold
The Other Brother: Bob Weinstein Was An Abusive Boss

NEW YORK TIMES:

2 Senators Strike Deal On Health Subsidies That Trump Cut Off
Raqqa, ISIS ‘Capital,’ Is Captured, US-Backed Forces Say
As Party Gathers, Xi Jinping Displays A Firm Grip On Power
Inside A Secretive Group Where Women Are Branded
Navy SEALs Were Ready If Pakistan Failed To Free Family Held As Hostages
Women Denounce Harassment In California’s Capital

WASHINGTON POST:

Latest Healthcare Effort Quickly Stalls
US-Backed Force Says Raqqa Free Of ISIS
Despite Decision Against Uber, London’s Rivalry Between Traditional, Modern Transit Continues
Drug Czar Pick Bows Out Amid Criticism Of Law Judge Largely Halts Latest Version Of Travel Ban

FINANCIAL TIMES:

US-Backed Forces Claim Victory Over ISIS In Raqqa As Jihadis Flee
Airbus Challenges Boeing With Vow To Create US Jobs
Wall St Banks Boosted By Lending To Rich Clients

Washington Times:

Trump Supports Bipartisan Short-Term Fix To Stabilize Obamacare
Judge Blocks Trump’s Travel Ban For Third Time
Islamic State’s ‘Caliphate’ Dissolves, But Ideology, Operations Spread Around World
New York Times’ Social Media Policy Only Hides Political Bias, Doesn’t Eliminate It
Biden And Kasich Claim Political Center, Turn Bipartisan Talk Against Trump

After Year In Coffin, Thai King's Body Prepared For Royal Cremation

STORY LINEUP FROM LAST NIGHT'S NETWORK NEWS:

ABC: NFL Owners Meeting; Bipartisan Healthcare Plan; White House-Fallen Soldiers Call; Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal; California Wildfires; Travel Restriction Blocked; Syria-Raqqa Assault; Ohio-Police Violence; Cold Medicine Murder; Texas Air Balloon Crash Investigation; Ford Explorers-Call For Recall; Aspiring Kid.

CBS: Opioid Epidemic-Marino Nomination Withdrawn; Opioid Epidemic-Hard Hit Area; Texas Air Balloon Crash Investigation; McCain, Biden-Trump Criticisms; White House-Fallen Soldiers Call; Syria-Raqqa Assault; Ford Explorers-Call For Recall; Travel Restriction Blocked; Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal; Young Political Candidates.

NBC: White House-Fallen Soldiers Call; Bipartisan Healthcare Plan; Wall Street Records; Opioid Epidemic-Marino Nomination Withdrawn; Opioid Epidemic-Chinese Imports; Travel Restriction Blocked; Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal; United Overbooking Investigation; Texas Air Balloon Crash Investigation; Syria-Raqqa Assault; Ford Explorers-Call For Recall; NFL Owners Meeting; GMO Apple; Brooklyn-Loose Cow; Creative Chemistry Class.

NETWORK TV AT A GLANCE:

White House-Fallen Soldiers Call – 8 minutes, 15 seconds

Opioid Epidemic – 6 minutes, 25 seconds

Syria-Raqqa Assault – 6 minutes, 15 seconds

Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal – 4 minutes, 50 seconds

Ford Explorers-Call For Recall – 4 minutes, 20 seconds

Travel Restriction Blocked – 1 minute, 20 seconds

STORY LINEUP FROM THIS MORNING'S RADIO NEWS BROADCASTS:

ABC: Travel Restriction Blocked; Bipartisan Healthcare Plan; NFL Owners Meeting; Maryland-Hate Crime Trial; Wall Street News.

CBS: Bipartisan Healthcare Plan; Travel Restriction Blocked; Opioid Epidemic; White House-Fallen Soldiers Call; California Wildfires.

FOX: Bipartisan Healthcare Plan; California Wildfires; Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal.

NPR: Travel Restriction Blocked; California Wildfires; NFL Owners Meeting; Amazon Sexual Harassment Scandal.

LAST LAUGHS

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: “They have a policy where if an animal escapes a slaughterhouse, it gets to go free. Isn’t that great? The bull is being sent to a rehabilitation facility for misbehaving cows. That’s the good news. The bad news is it is also where they sent Harvey Weinstein.”

Trevor Noah: “Speaking of hairy creatures, yesterday President Trump held a surprise press conference with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, which is kind of the worst surprise ever. ‘Surprise, I brought Mitch McConnell!’ Boo! What kind of surprise party is [with] Mitch McConnell?”

Trevor Noah: “I don’t know, something’s fishy here. They sound less like real friends and more like Trump trying to get Mitch a green card. ‘This gentleman, I’m going to say Mitch, right, Mr. Immigration Officer, this relationship is special, it’s so special.’ ‘That’s what you said about Melania.’”

Trevor Noah: “See what [President Trump] said? ‘President Obama never called. I call and I write. I also haven’t called and I didn’t write. But I do, except when I don’t, which is now.’”

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